

STATE OF COLORADO



Colorado Department of Human Services

people who help people

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COLORADO COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING September 2, 2010

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the Regular Meeting to order at 2:05pm.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioners Debbie Mohney (Chair), Leslie Ralphe (Vice Chair), Barbara Jenkins, Kirk Neuroth, Jennifer Peterson.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioners Shelley Strickfaden (Secretary), Nicki Runge

CCDHH STAFF PRESENT:

Cliff Moers, Administrator; Cheri Davis, Legal Auxiliary Services Manager; Rob Loveless, Education and Training Specialist; Namati Katungu, Education and Training Specialist; Veramarie McIngvale, TEDP Coordinator

INTERPRETERS/CART REPORTER:

Lynda Rimmel, JoLinda Greenfield and Kelly Turner, Interpreters
Claudette Mondragon, CART Reporter

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Approval of the June, 2010 minutes was postponed until the December meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commission Chair Mohney requested that a Grant report be added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as modified.

Chair Mohney asked for a volunteer to take minutes. Commissioner Ralphe agreed to take minutes.

5. REPORTS

Commission Chair's Report, Commissioner Mohney

- Commission Chair Mohney extended thanks to the interpreters and the CART reporter for their services.
- Commissioner Mohney acknowledged the ground-breaking service of previous Commission Chairs Susan Elliot and Joe Benedetto in establishing and leading the CCDHH to this point.
- Colorado voters will decide in November whether to adopt Amendments 60 and 61, and Proposition 101, which would have a tremendous impact on state finances in general, including the CCDHH budget.
- Commissioner Mohney announced the two new commissioners, Kirk Neuroth and Nicki Runge, and introduced the two new CCDHH staff members, Namati Katungu and Veramarie McIngvale. She also announced that the CCDHH has moved into a new office space on the Garden level of the building.

Commission Administrator's Report, Administrator Moers

- Administrator Moers thanked Commissioner Mohney and welcomed the new commissioners and new staff. Carmena Minor will be the new coordinator for Legal Auxiliary Services, Veramarie McIngvale will be the new TEDP coordinator, and Namati Katungu will be the Education and Training Specialist for the Hard of Hearing. The Commission now has a staff of seven.
- Administrator Moers reported that in the last fiscal year there was a 27% increase over the previous year for CART and interpreting services, through Legal Auxiliary Services, provided to court-ordered treatment programs. TEDP requests, which had decreased after the CCDHH took over the program from Marion Downs, also saw an increase this past year.
- This year, there will be some savings as interpreters will be paid at community interpreting rates (rather than legal ones) when the assignment is a court-ordered community interpreting assignment.
- Administrator Moers announced that the Education and Training Program was taking steps to collect information through a task force to discuss needs of the hard of hearing, and to create a vision for an effective form of outreach.
- Administrator Moers noted that it was the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Rob Loveless then gave a presentation demonstrating a trivia game created by the Texas Commission for the Hard of Hearing to educate government

- employees about their rights under ADA with regard to job applications and the workplace. This game is based on the TV show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire?* and will be used to give deaf and hard of hearing participants a sense of self-determination and knowledge when seeking employment and advocating for themselves in the workplace.
- Administrator Moers reported on the Commission's application for a grant from the Colorado Trust for building public will. The Commission did not receive a grant. Additionally, a partnership with Southwest Institute for the Deaf (SWID) to provide consumer advocacy training in the region did not come about because SWID was not approved to become a regional training center under Gallaudet University.
 - Administrator Moers announced that Cheri Davis would give a presentation on obtaining and using legal auxiliary services at the Association for Late-Deafened Adults (ALDA) national conference on September 3. He also announced that he may be able to participate in a national think tank for the Mid-America Regional Interpreter Education Center on the subject of the increasing costs of providing interpreting services in the public sector.

Report on Aging Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Coloradans, Heidi Streetman

- Research Consultant Heidi Streetman reported on her research over the last several months concerning the quality of services being provided to deaf, hard of hearing and deaf-blind elderly people in Colorado. Her research involved observing current conditions in Colorado and looking at models in other states. The deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind groups were recognized as distinct groups with varied needs.
- Ms. Streetman determined that Colorado has no system in senior care facilities to meet the needs of individuals in these three groups. Few health care professionals and caregivers are trained in American Sign Language or assistive technology. As a result, patients may be misdiagnosed, their medical needs are not always accurately addressed, and they may be isolated socially and/or bullied.
- Ms. Streetman suggested that the Mental Health and Substance Abuse program might be able to direct efforts to include services to elderly deaf, hard of hearing and deaf blind elderly individuals beyond the current focus of substance abuse. She also recommended that a task force composed of professionals who typically work with elderly populations, experts on health policy and financing, and people who are knowledgeable about deafness and hearing loss, meet and consider a plan for a facility to serve these groups, providing specially trained staff and offering access to the services provided to other seniors in the Denver region. A critical first step would be to perform a census to determine accurate numbers of seniors in these three groups and how their needs are currently being met.

Committee Chair Reports

A. Interpreting Committee

The interpreting committee chair is currently vacant. There was no report.

B. Legal Auxiliary Services

- Ms. Davis reported that the Legal Auxiliary Services is currently dealing with a complaint against an interpreter. If the issue is not resolved, some commission members may need to be involved in a resolution through an ad hoc ethics board.
- The Legal Auxiliary Services Advisory Committee has a vacancy for a legal member with a background in disability law.
- The office gets a number of calls from people seeking legal advice; Ms. Davis encouraged everyone to help clarify the role of Legal Auxiliary Services. Chair Mohny suggested putting a disclaimer on the website.

B. Bylaws Committee

The bylaws committee had no report.

C. Legislative Committee

Commissioner Strickfaden was absent; the legislative committee had no report.

D. Nominations Committee

Chair Mohny informed the Commission that she would no longer be serving as chair of the Nominations Committee or the TEDP Committee.

E. TEDP Committee

The TEDP Committee had no report.

F. Media Access Committee

- Commissioner Jenkins reported that the committee had established liaisons with some of the broadcast TV networks, and asked Administrator Moers to give an update.
- Administrator Moers announced that a presenter from 9 News would attend the December meeting to discuss a partnership. Funding is being sought from private foundations, but the partnership will include 54 30-second broadcasts on the Commission. These broadcasts will inform viewers about services the Commission offers. Commissioner Neuroth requested that the staff announce these spots before they are broadcast.

G. Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee

- Commissioner Peterson reported that she will no longer chair the committee. Administrator Moers provided a progress report about the Daylight Project. The current phase of the project involves interviewing 15 different centers about services to the deaf and hard of hearing community. They plan to choose 7 centers to become early adopters for the daylight project, and these will be trained in providing services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Another project goal is tele-behavioral health: videophone counseling provided to deaf and hard of hearing

individuals in remote locations. The division of Behavioral Health has provided \$60,000 to develop standards for service providers. The Daylight Project will end in June, 2011, so the core team is working on a sustainability plan for when the project comes to an end.

H. Grant Program Subcommittee

Administrator Moers reported that the grant committee recently met and looked at eight applications, seven of which were approved and sent to the Executive Board, where they are waiting on approval before they can be presented to the Commission. Acting on a motion by Commissioner Jenkins, the Commission agreed to review the grant applications and vote by email.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrator Moers reported that there was no status change on the Colorado Consumer's Protection Law FAQ. Chair Mohny requested an update for the December meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Mohny reminded everyone of the open house in the new CCDHH garden level office space following the meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Ralphe,
Acting as Secretary